The Cleveland Museum of Art
June, 1941 Bulletin

THE SILVER JUBILEE OF THE MUSEUM

On June 6, 1916, a quarter of a century ago, Cleveland hailed the opening of the new Cleveland Museum of Art. Three men had left monies for a museum, John Huntington in 1893, Horace Kelley in 1890, Hinman B. Hurlbut in 1884. Fortunately, these funds accumulated, and, because the trustees under the first two wills became in certain cases the same, eventually one museum, The Cleveland Museum of Art, was built, seven-tenths of it by the John Huntington art and Polytechnic Trust, three-tenths by the Horace Kelley Art Foundation on ground in Wade Park given by J.H. Wade. The Hinman B. Hurlbut Trust, smaller in amount, became an endowment fund in the newly founded Museum.

This dream finally came to fruition under the leadership of the first President of the Board of Trustees, Judge William B. Sanders. Henry W. Kent, secretary of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, as advisor to the Cleveland Board, gave invaluable help. Charles W. Bingham was chairman of the Building Committee; the architects were Hubbell and Benes, and into the planning and organizing of the building went the genius of the first director, Frederic Allen Whiting and his small, highly competent staff.

Within this framework the Museum has developed, the Board of Trustees having been headed successively by Judge William B. Sanders, J.H. Wade, John L. Severance, and William G. Mather, with Hermon A. Kelley secretary until his death in 1925. Yearly appropriations from the Huntington and Kelley Trusts are the backbone of the Museum budget, and to these, by bequest and gift, have been added substantial sums, the General Endowment Fund raised in 1922 through J.H. Wade being all-important. The element which has made the Museum a true expression of Cleveland as a whole, however, is the widespread individual memberships, which is some cases have been capitalized to form special endowments, in others, have gone to build up the Membership Endowment Fund or directly into maintenance funds.

THE SILVER JUBILEE EXHIBITION

To make the growth of the Museum collections graphically visible, an exhibition has been arranged of outstanding pieces in each department which has been grouped in five-year periods in Galleries V through XI inclusive. Supplementing these accessions, of course, are pieces shown in their accustomed places: in Gallery IV the gift of Mrs. Liberty E. Holden, the Holden Collection of Italian primitives, made ever more valuable by endowment funds left by both Mr. and Mrs. Holden; in the Armor Court the Collection of Arms and Armor given by Mr. and Mrs. John L. Severance, and the tapestries given by the then Mrs. Dudley P. Allen in memory of Dr. Dudley P. Allen, whose bequest of the Dudley P. Allen Fund has since permitted the development of one of the most beautiful groups of objects in the Museum.

WILLIAM M. MILLIKEN, in the June, 1941
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